

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 966 - SB 1534

April 12, 2021

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Prohibits the State Election Commission, Coordinator of Elections, and county election commissions from accepting contributions, including in-kind contributions, from any private entity for the purpose of conducting elections in this state.

Establishes that a taxpayer-funded audit of an election or election equipment is required to conform to the United States Accountability Office's Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS).

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006434, 007000):** Amendment 006434 deletes all language after the enacting clause. Prohibits the State Election Commission, Secretary of State, Coordinator of Elections, county election commissions, and local Administrators of Elections from accepting funding from a source other than a public governmental entity. Prohibits such parties from accepting any grant, gift, or funding from private persons, corporations, organizations, or political parties unless the acceptance is approved by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives. Establishes that the prohibition does not apply to election information advertising, donation of a location for voting purposes use, volunteer labor by citizens, or nominal items.

Amendment 007000 deletes and rewrites provisions of amendment 006434 to clarify that the approval process for acceptance of private funds on a state or local level is regarding private funds received for conducting an election.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation establishes approval requirements for nongovernmental entity funding provided to election officials to conduct an election in this state.
- The proposed legislation is not estimated to impact the ability for state and local election commissions to carry out their statutorily required duties.

- The Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives can approve acceptance of nongovernmental entity funding throughout the year within existing resources.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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